

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SOLAR PROJECT

404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Power from the sun

SCWA's Administration Building Solar Project consists of multiple solar installations, which use silicon technology to convert sunlight directly into electricity. The 2,752 solar photovoltaic panels have been installed on the Administration Building roof and ground-mounted shaded power canopy. In total, the project can generate an estimated 650,737 kilowatt hours* each year, saving the Agency more than \$117,000 in annual energy costs.

Covering a combined area of 37,017 square feet, SCWA's Administration Building Solar Project is one of the largest municipal solar projects in Sonoma County, and generates enough electricity during the day to power approximately 500 homes. Visit the kiosk in the front lobby of SCWA's administration building to see the real-time power output indicated on a meter.

The environment wins

By reducing the use of fossil-fuel generated power, SCWA's administration building system spares the environment from tons of harmful emissions of greenhouse gases such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide, which are major contributors to smog, acid rain and climate change. Over the 30-year lifetime of the current set of photovoltaic cells, SCWA will reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 6,200 tons, the equivalent of planting 1,700 trees, removing 1,200 cars or not driving 15 million miles on California's roadways.

Thank you to our partners

SCWA received a \$1.6 million rebate from PG&E's Self-Incentive Program which represents roughly half of the total project cost of \$3.6 million. (More at www.pge.com)

PowerLight Corp. of Berkeley designed and installed the project. (Find out more at www.powerlight.com)

Sonoma County Water Agency Sustainability Initiative

Sustainability is the ability to meet today's global economic, environmental and social needs without compromising the same opportunity for future generations. The Board and staff of SCWA take the concepts of sustainability seriously and have taken direct steps toward incorporating sustainable practices into its every-day work environment.

For example, the Agency anticipates that more than 90 percent of its peak electric power demand will be supplied from renewable power sources in future years. The Agency also leads in water conservation, managing an award-winning water conservation program recognized by statewide organizations including the Association of California Water Agencies, the California Urban Water Conservation Council and the Public Officials for Water and Environment Reform. These programs, together with the Agency's work in fishery restoration, source water protection, bio-diesel use and other environmental

The Sonoma County Water Agency is a regional leader in water resources management. The Agency strives to look forward, beyond today's issues, to anticipate ways to advance its mission. Additionally, the Agency continues to adapt its mission in response to changing opportunities, keeping the Agency at the forefront of developments in the water industry.

The Agency is dedicated to energy conservation, and is currently planning or implementing many projects and programs to save energy, reduce operating costs, and reduce its impact on the environment.

www.sonomacountywater.org


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projects, are important components of sustainable resource management.

Specific actions approved by the Agency Board of Directors to advance implementation of sustainable practices include:

- Develop definitions and standards for sustainability consistent with recognized guidelines from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations.
- Complete an evaluation of the Agency's progress toward sustainability with respect to benchmark standards and determine direction and goals for sustainability over the next 10 to 20 years.
- Conduct outreach to local officials and leaders to build consensus on goals and help convene a summit meeting on sustainability.
- Apply for certification as a sustainable water supplier through the Sustainable Business Institute (www.sustainablebusiness.org).
- Become a plenary member of the California Environmental Dialogue (www.cedlink.org).

** A kilowatt is 1,000 watts. A kilowatt hour refers to the use of a device or a set of devices that use 1,000 watts for an hour. Therefore, using a 100 watt light-bulb for 10 hours would equate to 1 kilowatt hour, as would the use of a 10,000 watt machine for 6 minutes.*

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